

in so grand a work. But sometimes we are discouraged when we cannot see the fruits of our labor.

A good many years ago in a small New England town there lived an humble minister. He had labored for many long, weary months without any apparent success. Darkness, discouragements and disappointments overshadowed him. His life, to himself at least seemed almost a failure and his efforts fruitless. One gloomy, rainy Sabbath morning as he wended his way to the dark, dingy little church, made still darker because of so few members being present he did not want to preach, and we do not wonder. To seek shelter from the fast approaching threatening storm there came into that little church a boy, a stranger. The minister thinking that perhaps God wanted him to do what he could, so he began to tell the grand and wonderful story of the love that God has for his children, and of the plan of salvation that he provided to save us from sin. The boy was converted to Christ and he afterward became one of the greatest soul-winners the world ever knew, the Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon. This poor discouraged minister was not only instrumental in the conversion of Spurgeon, but through his sermons and writings hundreds of souls have been converted to Christ. So let us do what we can and look trustingly to Jesus who fed five thousand hungry people with five barley loaves and two small fishes, given by a little boy who gave all he had. Christ at whose command were gathered up twelve baskets, much more than there had been at first, this same Jesus will bless our efforts and multiply our means if we but do what we can cheerfully for his cause and for his glory.

We have thought along the line of our national mission work. We will now consider another item of our object which is that of Christian education. To promote Christian education. The word promote is defined, to forward or further on, to encourage, to advance, Christian, Christ like education, instruction, act of teaching. The word training is also closely connected and is defined as drawn along, alluring, exercising. A most desirable field in which to promote Christian education is among the young people. Their young minds are open to instruction and training. As parents, first of all we are taught by divine authority to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The family altar is the first step towards the church.

As soon as they are old enough we should take them if possible, send them to Sabbath-school which is the second step towards the church. The third step

towards the church is the Young People's Society. This is a place where the young people are taught the law, given to us by Christ to govern the Christian life. It is a school where they are trained for a higher, holier life in the church. The future success of the church depends largely on the training of the young people of to-day. It is a training school from which thousands are promoted into the higher school the church, and the boys and girls who are trained in the Young People's Societies will be the most successful workers in the church. The young people of to-day will be the men and women of tomorrow. It is from among the young people of to-day that must come the men and women that will carry on the Christian work. It is from among our young people that must come the men and women that will be superintendents of and teachers in the Sabbath-school. They will fill our pulpits, serve in the Doctor's office, sit in the halls of Legislature, and occupy the presidential chair. And we are loath to recognize the solemn fact that it is from among our now pure and innocent young people will come the men and the women that will patronize the saloon, worse than waste their precious God-given time and talents in the ball-room and gambling den.

It is so sad to think that from among our fair young people will come the men and women that will fill the jails and penitentiaries and pay life's penalty on the gallows. Oh, the great need of Christian education. To promote Christian education will help the former class of people; to simply neglect to advance Christian education will help to increase the forces of the latter class.

This is a solemn question. Only two sides to it; on which side are we? Mothers and sisters, we the teachers and trainers of the young. That there is great power for good in young people's training must be admitted. But fifteen years ago Dr. Clark realized the necessity of a Young People's Society. He went to work earnestly organizing and training and the result is that to-day he is the acknowledged foster father of nearly three million of Christian Endeavorers of various names and of various churches.

Of the items that were of most importance of that great enthusiastic Christian Endeavor Convention held at our National Capitol last June was this one, that of forty-six thousand one hundred and twenty-five societies with a membership of two million seven hundred and fifty thousand and Endeavorers. Ten thousand and eighty-four of these were Juniors, probably children of from three to ten years of age. Two hundred and thirty-one thousand

and nine hundred of these workers were led into church membership during the past year.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union realizes the fact that great strength lies in young people's training, and is one of the most important of the forty-four different kinds of work that is carried on by this great Union. The young people's department on society is called, Loyal Temperance Legion. This motto is, Teach and Train. There the children are gathered in and are taught the evil effects of the liquor traffic. They are taught to shun it. They are trained to speak against it, to live against it, and to vote against. If we would bring about a better state of things in the future we must promote Christian education among the young people.

In our object is another item of very great importance to our S. S. C. E. workers. It is spiritual growth. The word growth is defined, to increase, to widen, to spread, to expand our spiritual, our inner life, this life which is a part of God himself this life, had a beginning, but which has no ending. It is simply this: that we cultivate our spiritual natures, our better life, bring it up to the standard of God's divine laws, grow, become more holy, more consecrated, more devoted to the cause of Christ. Shed this ray of spiritual sunshine in practical, loving Christian service, which is the evidence of spiritual growth. Begin practical Christian service in the home among the children. Take it to the Sabbath-school in loving patient teaching. Practice it in the S. S. C. E. meetings while our hands are at work earning the dollars to save the lost.

Let our hearts be filled with the love of Christ, and let our minds be occupied in devising plans to promote spiritual growth as well as Christian education in the young people's work and in the church. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Let us show our spirituality by practical Christian service in the prayer meeting and in the church, by assisting the pastor in the work of saving souls, by visiting and inviting non-churchgoers, get them into church services so the pastor may reach them.

Jesus, who is our example in all things, was the greatest spiritual worker the world ever knew. When he was persecuted by the Jews for healing the impotent man he said, my father worketh hitherto and I work.

Let us remember that God has a work for every one of us. Let us think of our name, of our object, and last but not least our motto which is this: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy